

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1867

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: SPECULATION ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW GREEK CYPRIOT
NEGOTIATOR

REF: NICOSIA 1802

1. WHEN PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU DISMISSED TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS
AS GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR JULY 17, HE SAID HE WOULD
NAME A NEW NEGOTIATOR WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS. AMONG THOSE
MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO PAPADOPOULOS ARE
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANDREAS LOIZOU, DEMOCRATIC PARTY
FLOOR LEADER IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAVROS AMBIZAS,
PRESENT ADVISER TO NEGOTIATOR STELLA SOULIOTI AND
MICHAEL TRIANTFYLLIDES,
GOC DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE
TO UN ANDREAS IACOVIDES, AND PRESIDENT OF HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES ALECOS MICHAELIDES.

2. WE BELIEVE LATTER TWO ARE PROBABLE FRONT RUNNERS.
AMBIZAS HAS TAKEN HIMSELF OUT OF CONTENTION BECAUSE
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OF DEMANDS OF HIS LAW PRACTICE. TRIANTAFYLLIDES VETOED
JUSTICE LOIZOU ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE
FOR HIM AS, A
PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT, TO SERVE
AS ADVISOR TO LOIZOU WHO IS HIS JUNIOR ON LE
BENCH. TRIANTAFYLLIDES HIMSELF IS NOT GREATLY TURSTED
IN GOC CIRCLES BECAUSE HIS ERRATIC AND AMBITIOUS.

MRS. SOULIOTI IS A POSSIBILITY AND MAY STILL BE IN THE
RUNNING, BUT OUR SOURCES BELIEVE THAT EITHER IACOVIDES
OR MICHAELIDES WILL GET THE NOD.

3. WE BELIEVE EITHER OF TWO FRONT RUNNERS WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE REPLACEMENT FOR PAPADOPOULOS. MICHAELIDES,
AS HOUSE PRESIDENT AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS IN
ABSENCE OF KYPRIANOU, WOULD BRING STATURE TO THE JOB.
HE PROFESSES TO TAKE A PROBLEM SOLVING RATHER THAN
DOCTRINAIRE ATTITUDE TO ISSUES, AND HE IS LESS ABRASIVE
THAN PAPADOPOULOS. NEGATIVE FACTOR IS THAT MICHAELIDES
IS THOUGHT TO BE UNDER INFLUENCE OF ARCHBISHOP CHRYSOSTTOS,
A HARDLINER ON
CYPRUS PROBLEM. WE KNOW IACOVIDES
LESS WELL, BUT HE HAS EXCELLENT REPUTATION AND IS
REPORTED TO BE MODERATE IN HIS VIEWS AND EXTREMELY WELL
QUALIFIED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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